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NAMES IN THE NEWS
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Consumer advocate Ralph Nader says Americans should seize the power that will come from the new technology of home computers and cable television systems.

"With the telecommunications shift, there will be more power in the hands of people," Nader said. "They can fight City Hall and shape political campaigns."

The new technology will bring information that could either help citizens or be used against them, the consumer activist told 1,000 people at a Town Hall lecture Monday night.

Information could be secured by the FBI or CIA under the guise of national security, he warned. If people can bank, shop and respond to political polls by cable or computer, more information can be stored on their personal and political backgrounds, he said.

"We've never been able to say 'no' to technology, to stop it cold, except for the SST (supersonic airplane)," Nader said. "We're not at the point of saying it now. We have to make the best of it."